

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/785,862

Examiner

Wen-Tai Lin

Applicant(s)

STEWART ET AL.

Art Unit

2154

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed on 1/26/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,4-8, 11,14-18 and 29-40, renumbered as 1-24.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's Amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 C.F.R. 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the Issue Fee.

Authorization for the examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Karl Kenna, reg. no. 45445, on February 15, 2006.

2. In the claims: please amend claims 1, 11 and 31 to the following:

1. (Currently Amended) A workflow integration system that allows for sharing of workflow information among a plurality of collaboration participants, comprising:

a plurality of collaboration participants;

a workflow server on each collaboration participant, and having stored thereon a participant workflow that specifies process information for a project that is local to that collaboration participant, wherein a project is a group of related tasks; and

a collaboration server having stored thereon an enterprise workflow that defines combined process information for the participant workflows, and that includes tasks to be executed across the plurality of collaboration participants to achieve a combined result, said collaboration server further comprising

a conversation initiation logic that initiates a conversation among the collaboration participants, wherein said conversation includes a collective set of messages exchanged according to an extensible protocol, wherein said extensible protocol allows a collaboration participant to specify both a routing information and a business protocol, and wherein the routing information is specified by a collaboration participant in a header of the extensible protocol; and

an integration logic that allows one of said participant workflows to interact with and affect another participant workflow by sending messages between collaboration participants via the conversation on the collaboration server and in accordance with the enterprise workflow, wherein each participant may choose to use any of a plurality of business protocols that are supported by the system for conversation.

11. (Currently Amended) A method for integrating workflows comprising the steps of:

storing an enterprise workflow on a collaboration server, wherein said enterprise workflow includes process information for a plurality of participant workflows, and wherein said enterprise workflow includes a group of tasks executed by the collaboration server across the plurality of collaboration participants, to achieve a combined result;

storing a participant workflow on each collaboration participant server, wherein said participant workflow specifies process information for a project local to that collaboration participant, wherein a project is a group of related tasks;

initiating a conversation among the collaboration participants, wherein said conversation includes a collective set of messages exchanged according to an extensible

protocol, wherein said extensible protocol allows a collaboration participant to specify both a routing information and a business protocol, and wherein the routing information is specified by a collaboration participant in a header of the extensible protocol; and

providing an integration logic that allows one of said participant workflows to interact with and affect another participant workflow by sending messages between collaboration participants via the conversation on the collaboration server and in accordance with the enterprise workflow, wherein each participant may choose to use any of a plurality of business protocols that are supported by the system for conversation.

31. (Currently Amended) A workflow integration system that allows for sharing of workflow information among a plurality of collaboration participants, comprising:

a plurality of collaboration participants;

a workflow server on each collaboration participant, and having stored thereon a participant workflow that specifies process information for a project local to that collaboration participant;

a collaboration server having stored thereon an enterprise workflow that defines combined process information for the participant workflows, said collaboration server further comprising

a collaboration space that stores a conversation among the collaboration participants, wherein said conversation includes a collective set of messages exchanged according to an extensible protocol, wherein said extensible protocol allows a collaboration participant to specify both a routing information and a business protocol,

and wherein the routing information is specified by a collaboration participant in a header of the extensible protocol;

a plurality of business protocol handlers, each of which are configured to use a different business protocol;

a transport that accepts messages from the collaboration participants using any of the different business protocols, identifies the business protocol being used, and invokes one or more of said plurality of business protocol handlers; and

wherein one of said participant workflows can interact with and affect another participant workflow by sending messages between collaboration participants via the conversation on the collaboration server using any of the plurality of business protocols supported by the system.

3. In the Specification:

- (i) On page 1, line 27, insert after “Application” – No. 09/788150 --;
- (ii) On page 2, line 1, insert after “Application” – No. 09/785687 --;
- (iii) On page 2, line 5, insert after “Application” – No. 09/785872 --; and
- (iv) On page 2, line 9, insert after “Application” – No. 09/785693 --.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Wen-Tai Lin whose telephone number is (571)272-3969. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (8:00-5:00) .

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Follansbee can be reached on (571)272-3964. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are as follows:

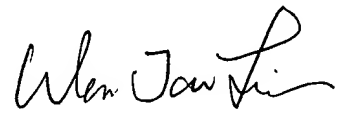
(571)273-8300 for official communications; and

(571)273-3969 for status inquiries draft communication.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Wen-Tai Lin

February 15, 2006


2/15/06